

FOOTPRINTS

Impressions from where we were to where we will be...

Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego



Po Kaneyuki, Babe Karasawa and Yo Takehara (left to right) cooling off in the Colorado River near Poston, Arizona, where their families were interned during World War II. Photo taken circa 1943.

CLASSIC PHOTOS FROM THE ARCHIVE:

A Day at the Colorado River

by Yukio Kawamoto

This photo was probably taken sometime in 1943, possibly spring or summer, at the Colorado River near Poston, Arizona, while the three boys were interned at Poston Camp III. At the time, **Po Kaneyuki** was 12 or 13 years old, **Babe Karasawa** was 15 or 16, and **Yo Takehara** was 16 or 17. None of them remembers who took the photo.

The Colorado River was located about three miles west of Poston Camp III. Without any camp rules or physical barriers to restrict them, spending a day at the river was one of the favorite pastimes of residents of Camp III, especially boys in their teens.

Yo remembers that it was a long, hot and dusty hike to the river, but it was worth it to spend a day swimming, fishing and horsing around. The Camp III trash crew had access to a Ford tractor with a trailer that was used to pick up trash around the camp. Once in a while, someone on the crew would drive the tractor to the river and give rides to as many as could fit on the trailer.

The road to the river was deeply rutted and composed of fine, powdery silt, so the ride was really bumpy and dusty. But not having to hike the three miles in the heat made it all worthwhile. Babe recalls that the silt was so powdery and fine that it acted like water: when the wheels of the tractor drove through it, the silt parted and covered itself back up just like water. Po recalled that once **Walt Fujimoto** drove a tractor to the river full bore all the way to the river in spite of the rough road. It was all Po could do to hang on for dear life and keep from falling off.

The Colorado River was quite wide in the area where the road from Camp III ended. There was a small island in the river. The channel between the riverbank and the island was fairly narrow and the current was not as swift there as it was in the main part of the river. It was a fairly easy swim to reach the island.

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INSERT: JAPANESE COMMUNITY NIGHT ORDER FORM

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAR. 23 - EASTER SUNDAY/New Member Reception:

Easter Breakfast (8 am), Worship Service (10 am), Children's egg hunt (11:15 am), POVUCC

MAR. 25 - PHOTO I.D. PARTY (10 am), Austin Archives

MAR. 29 - JACL JAPANESE-STYLE COMMUNITY

BREAKFAST (8:30-10:30 am), Kiku Gardens. Free but donations appreciated. Reservations: 619/230-0314

MAR. 29 - VFW Bingo: Pre-game spaghetti dinner (4:30 pm)

\$7, VFW Bingo (6 pm), \$10, BTSD Annex Hall

MAR. 30 - ANNUAL BTSD/Vista Buddhist Temple

Dharma EXCHANGE (10 am), Vista Buddhist Temple

APRIL 12 - BUDDHIST LECTURE by Rev. Gerald Sakamoto

(1-3 pm), BTSD Sanzō Hall

APR. 12 - HANAMATSURI SERVICE (7:30 pm), Vista

Buddhist Temple

APR. 13 - HANAMATSURI (10 am), Potluck luncheon/bake-

sale (12 pm), BTSD

APR. 18-20 - POSTON CAMP REUNION, Doubletree Hotel

APR. 26 - VFW BINGO (6 pm), BTSD Annex Hall, \$10 buy-in,

619/239-0896

APR. 26 & 27 - HANAMATSURI BAZAAR (12-6 pm), Vista

Buddhist Temple

APR. 27 - KEIRO KAI LUNCHEON (12:30 pm), presented

by Japanese Coordinating Council, BTSD Annex Hall

APR. 29 - PHOTO I.D. PARTY (10 am), Austin Archives

MAY 3 - ANNUAL FURNITURE SALE (8am-12 pm), BTSD

MAY 11 - MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST (8:30 am), BTSD

MAY 17 - JAHSSD BOARD MEETING (8:30 am), Austin

Archives

MAY 18 - INFANT PRESENTATION CEREMONY (9 am)

Gotan-e Service (10 am)

MAY 24 - VFW BINGO (6 pm), BTSD Annex Hall, \$10 buy-in,

619/239-0896

MAY 26 - COMMUNITY MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

JA Veterans Memorial Monument, Mt. Hope Cemetery

MAY 27 - PHOTO I.D. PARTY (10 am), Austin Archives

JUNE 1 - JAPANESE CULTURAL BAZAAR (11 am-4 pm),

BTSD. Free admission

JUNE 2 through AUGUST 2008 - JAHSSD

EXHIBITION: "Arts and Crafts of WWII Internment

Camps," Japanese Friendship Garden Exhibit House. Free with

Garden admission. Info: 619/232-2721, www.niwa.org

JUNE 15 - BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY/FATHER'S

DAY WORSHIP (10 am), Dads & Grads Potluck (11:15 am),

POVUCC

JUNE 15 - BTSD FATHER'S DAY ALL-TEMPLE PICNIC

(10 am-2 pm), Rohr Park, Chula Vista

JUNE 21 - JAHSSD BOARD MEETING (8:30 am)

JUNE 27 - JAPANESE COMMUNITY NIGHT (7 pm), Pads

v. Mariners, Petco Park, \$38. Reservations: 858/467-1729

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Gwen Momita

Greetings, Members and Friends!

I'm delighted and honored to serve as JAHSSD president for 2008. **Michio Himaka** has set high standards as past president. We are grateful for his dedication and hard work. Not only did he commit to an extra year of service, but he is now also co-chairing the upcoming Poston Reunion—a huge undertaking. We encourage young and old alike to turn out in support of this event. Please look for Poston stories, photos and info throughout this issue.

Besides overseeing the community-wide Poston event, this organization has other issues at hand. The three-year lease on our Austin Drive office/storage space is coming up for renewal. We must make a decision to either continue to rent space here in Spring Valley or move to a more central (and therefore more expensive) location.

Regardless of whether we remain at Austin or relocate, we will need operating funds to continue. Since this is the last year of our three-year pledge drive, we must find additional funding to see us through the next few years. The Board is weighing various options, keeping in mind both our short-term and long-term goals.

Lastly, JAHSSD is always looking for new Board members. Our current "Boardies" have demonstrated what can happen with dedication and vision. I invite others to step forward to help continue our mission. If you cannot commit to a Board position, please consider dedicating a few hours a month to volunteering. Assistance is needed a variety of areas, such as grant writing, archive cataloging, computer work, and exhibit development, just to name a few. If you don't know how to do these things, we will train you. Or, just come spend some time with us. We'd love to hear your family's story of how they brought you to this place and time.

As we move forward, we will keep you informed. Please let us hear from you—we welcome your thoughts and ideas.

CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING NICE

In each issue, we like to recognize and thank those members and friends who have gone out of their way to provide our Society with that effort that makes our organization successful.

First off, we'd like to thank **Ben Segawa** who represented JAHSSD at the UCSD Day of Remembrance program last February. We also thank **Liz Yamada** who has taken on speaking engagements to talk about her internment experience with various groups. Thank you, Liz!

We've also had help identifying faces and places in our archival photo collection. Thanks to **Tim Asamen** who drove up from Imperial Valley for this purpose, and to **Ruth Voorhies** and **Chiz Imoto** for their help in I.D.'ing people in the **Taro Matsui** photographs in our collection.

We are also grateful to those who took the time to attend the January and February Photo I.D. parties at the Austin Archives. They included **Taka Sawasaki**, **Po Kaneyuki**, **Amy Kaneyuki**, **Motoo Tsuneyoshi**, **Mits Kawamoto**, **Yuki Kawamoto**, **Roy Asaki**, **Bob Shimamoto**, **Gwen Momita** and **Jane Takeshita**. Many of the photographs will appear in the pictorial book on San Diego Nikkei history being compiled by **Susan Hasegawa** this year.

Linda and Eddie Canada generously donated two dinners to the Japan Society's annual Gala last January. This allowed two board members to attend the big event representing JAHSSD. Thank you!

(Continued on Page 3)

(CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING NICE continued from Page 2)

Items for Camp Arts, Poston Exhibitions

Thanks to the following friends for responding to our appeal for arts and crafts created in the internment camps which have not been publicly displayed...and for memorabilia for the Poston Reunion display:

♦ **Debra Kodama** loaned us an ironwood carving of a bird of paradise plant that her maternal grandfather, **Jerry Tasaki**, made in Poston.

♦ **Ritsu Nabeta** loaned items made of manzanita wood by her father, **Rikizo Uyeno**, at Manzanar.

♦ **Joyce Teague** loaned a cloth samurai doll made in Tule Lake; a small Buddhist butsudan (altar) made of crate wood, probably at Poston; the journals her father, **Fred Fukumi Nabeta**, kept while at Poston Camp I; a copy of the 1944 Poston senior yearbook titled, "Our Castle, Post-Ano 1944"; and several reference books on camp art.

♦ **Frank and Mary Wada** have loaned us the large barrack model, 442nd photos, and camp woodwork.

Recent Donations

We offer our sincere thanks to the following for their donations:

♦ **Robert Ito**: DVD and Hi 8 videotape interviews of **Frank Wada**, **Abe Takehara**, **James Masumoto**, and **Lloyd Ito**;

♦ **Gwen Momita**: photographs of the **Shimamoto family** of Imperial Valley;

♦ **Bert Tanaka, Jr.**: Black and white photographs taken at the Heart Mountain, Wyoming, relocation camp; matted black and white photographs taken in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo area; and 14 sets of double mats;

♦ **Debra Kodama**: A book, *Kodama Family History 1879-2005*, produced by **Roy and Emi Kodama** of Thousand Oaks, that includes a several-generation family tree and Kodama Family history from the 1900s emigration to the births of the Gosei generation;

♦ **Paul Yasuhara**: Materials related to the 100th Battalion and the 442nd RTC, of which his uncle was a member.

We've also received a timely donation from **Pauline Date Nakamura**, some of which we will be using in the Poston Reunion exhibition:

♦ Two copies of the 1945 school yearbook from Parker Valley High School Senior Newsletter, 1944 graduation materials, and **Ken Nishi's** diploma from Parker Valley High School;

♦ *Red and Gray*, 1942, 1943 and 1944 yearbooks from Sweetwater Union High School;

♦ **Ken Nishi's** Poston photograph album;

♦ Two embroidered white on black letter "P";

♦ Prewar photographs of JACL, Japanese Christian Church, the Buddhist Temple, farming, and other activities;

♦ Panoramic group photo of 1964 BTSD Hanamatsuri and 1964 classroom building dedication;

♦ Envelope of WWII-era European occupation snapshots;

♦ Envelope of miscellaneous prewar San Diego photographs;

♦ Color photographs from previous Poston reunions;

♦ Panoramic photo of Chula Vista Seinen baseball team.

Footprints Contributors and Mail Helpers

In addition to our wonderful regular contributors, we are grateful to the following members and friends for their special articles, hot tips and/or photo contributions this issue: **Pauline Nakamura**, **Rio Imamura**, **Akiko (Alice) Matsumoto**, **Bert Tanaka, Jr.**, **Julie Kim**, **Aya Ibarra**, and our star reporter, **Yuki Kawamoto**.

Our thanks as always to the great crew that helped with preparation and mailing of the Winter 2007 Issue of *Footprints*. They were **Po Kaneyuki**, **Mits & Yuki Kawamoto**, **Gwen Momita**, **Bob Shimamoto**, **Ben & Grace Segawa**, **Nancy Cowser**, **Bob Batchelder**, **Carol Estes** and **Naomi Himaka**.

POSTON III REUNION PLANS SET

by Mich Himaka, Poston Reunion Co-chair

Some 300 people are expected to attend the 13th Poston III Reunion functions at the Doubletree Hotel in Mission Valley, April 18-20.

Registration begins at 1 p.m. Friday, April 18, in the foyer in front of the Mission Valley Boardroom at the Doubletree Hotel, including the sign-up for the Saturday Night Banquet. Tables of 10 will be set up for the banquet, so those planning to attend and who want to sit with family members should sign up from Friday afternoon.

Applications have been arriving from all over the country for what might be the last reunion of Poston III internees. Family groups, including internees, their children, grandchildren and, in some instances, great-grandchildren, have responded to date.

A beautiful souvenir booklet is being put together by **Gary Hamada** (Block 327), **Liz Yamada** (Block 329) and **Jean Fujisaki**, a recruited volunteer. The committee thanks the booklet underwriters and an estimated 100 individuals and family groups who purchased memorial and business ads which made the booklet possible. We know it will be a treasured "keeper" for those who receive or purchase one.

The reunion committee of about 25 to 30 people has been meeting for the past year or so, putting together the events that include a Friday night mixer (April 18), the Saturday night banquet (April 19) and the Sayonara breakfast (April 20). Other optional activities include a golf tournament, a trip to the Sycuan Casino and Resort and an excursion to the San Diego Zoo. The team of **Carol Estes**, **Sumi Kastelic**, **Linda Canada**, **Susan Hasegawa** and **Valerie Abe** are putting together a wonderful exhibit. But the reunion mainly affords a chance for former internees to get together and reminisce about their experiences.

We hope that family members who attend will not hesitate asking their relatives and friends about their experiences in camp.

Chairman Greg Cox of the S.D. County Board of Supervisors will present a proclamation honoring those former internees in attendance.

It's the committee's hope that one of their volunteer teachers, **Mrs. Barbara Washler Curry** of Kansas, will be present to accept the proclamation from Chairman Cox. Mrs. Curry, who is in her late 80s, was one of those teachers who volunteered to join the internees in camp and taught them for about three years. We also will be honoring those, mostly internees, who volunteered to teach the grammar school children.

As one who went from a fifth grader to a seventh grader (and attended the high school campus), I got to enjoy both levels. I remember our teachers in grammar school, like **Jimmy Urata**, **Takeo Asakawa**, **Bertha Starkey**, **Mary Hirata**, **Miss Mano** (whose first name escapes me now), and those who taught us in the seventh grade like **Helen Ellis**, **Blossom Vigdor**, **Barbara Washler**, **Miss Jan Linfield** and others.

At last report, the Doubletree Hotel has rented the original 100 rooms plus 15 more that were set aside for Poston Reunion guests. So it appears there will be a good crowd attending this reunion.

It's not known yet if another group will be willing to step up and plan one more reunion. We will learn that when we meet in April.

HELP NEEDED AT POSTON REUNION

The Poston Reunion Committee can use a number of volunteers at the reunion April 18-20, particularly with set-up on Friday and break-down Sunday of the special exhibit. You do not have to be registered for the event or a Society member to lend a helping hand.

If you will call **Linda Canada** or **Mich Himaka** (phone numbers on the back page), it will be greatly appreciated!

IN MEMORIAM

JAHSSD notes with great sadness the passing of JAHSSD members, San Diegans and former residents of our community. We extend our heartfelt condolences to their families and friends.

SATOKO KAWAMURA SATO
May 10, 1924 ~ December 1, 2007

HIROKO MATSUMOTO BIDDLE
May 19, 1934 ~ December 8, 2007

DORIS H. FUJIMOTO
March 17, 1937 ~ November 20, 2007

AKIJI OCHI
October 14, 1920 ~ November 25, 2007

SHIZUE MORITA
1922 ~ November 30, 2007

MICHIKO OKUMA
April 3, 1927 ~ December 13, 2007

LUCKY KAUI HIRAKAWA
August 28, 1955 ~ December 23, 2007

NORIKO "NANCY" CORREIA
December 15, 1928 ~ December 23, 2007

ALLEN ISEO NAKAMURA
August 2, 1923 ~ December 26, 2007

SEIICHI OSHIRO
June 5, 1935 ~ December 29, 2007

YOSHINOBU SUEYOSHI
March 10, 1932 ~ January 2, 2008

JOHN HONDA
March 4, 1921 ~ January 3, 2008

HARUKO DELACRUZ
February 26, 1933 ~ January 11, 2008

STEVE H. KAMIMORI
March 6, 1957 ~ January 15, 2008

TAKEKO "JUDY" SIEMIENCZUK
March 20, 1932 ~ January 19, 2008

JOYCE MARGARET MORIKAWA
August 29, 1935 ~ January 24, 2008

OSAO HIMAKA
January 19, 1922 ~ January 31, 2008

HARUE PATSY YANAGIHARA
March 25, 1935 ~ February 1, 2008

TOSHIKO CASH
January 19, 1926 ~ February 9, 2008

AYA YAMANO
December 25, 1913 ~ February 16, 2008

SUZY SHIZUKO YAMADA
July 21, 1922 ~ February 25, 2008

RANDALL TAKASUGI
March 19, 1950 ~ March 1, 2008

SAM SHIGEAKI AMANO
March 2, 1932 ~ March 7, 2008

PORT TO DEDICATE CANNERY WORKERS TRIBUTE JUNE 14

A pocket of waterfront property along César Chavez Park on Crosby Street will be dedicated to San Diego's cannery workers on June 14, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. The **Canning Workers Tribute** will acknowledge the contributions of workers, mostly women, who were employed by the canning industry during a 70-year stretch from 1911 to the mid-1980s.

Construction of the pathways and installation of artwork and informational plaques are currently taking place. The park site is not far from the area that once housed **Fish Camp** and the San Diego canneries. (See the related article below.) Last year, JAHSSD was approached by the Port of San Diego for background information on Fish Camp and an overview of the contributions of local Japanese to the fishing industry.

The dedication will be followed by a community barbecue. JAHSSD members and their families are encouraged to attend the event and enjoy the festivities. The Port District assures us they are preparing a meaningful program with representation from the Nikkei community.

Details will be forthcoming. If you would like to be updated by e-mail, be sure JAHSSD has your e-mail address. If you have never received an e-mail from JAHSSD, it means we don't have your information on file. Send it to contact@jahssd.org or footprintseditor@cox.net.

UPDATE ON THE CANNERY WORKERS TRIBUTE

This article from the January 2008 Port of San Diego Public Art Newsletter has been edited for length and is reprinted here with permission.

Construction of the **Cannery Workers Tribute** is well-advanced and scheduled for completion in spring 2008. The project is an artistic tribute to the rich history and contributions of the many thousands of people once employed in San Diego's fish canneries during the days when tuna fishing and processing were a leading industry in the region.

Located on a former cannery site adjacent to Cesar Chavez Park, the tribute will be a small landscaped park with seating and lighting, colored concrete walkways, a large inlaid mosaic sun tile design, bronze sculptures, embedded cannery artifacts, and an arch of stainless steel tuna fish.

Four large bronze plaques will provide a historical perspective on the cannery industry and its workers. The plaques will be mounted on special bases fashioned from pieces of salvaged cannery machinery.

The Cannery Workers Tribute is jointly sponsored by the Port of San Diego and **Continental Maritime**, which is part of the **Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding** sector and a Port tenant on the working waterfront. The tribute is actually located on the Continental Maritime leasehold on a parcel known as "Parque del Sol" which was the outdoor break and lunch area for employees of the **Bumblebee Seafoods** cannery that was previously located here. The cannery ceased operations in 1984 and the building was torn down in 2004 to make way for Continental's new parking lot.

As part of the Port's percent-for-art policy, Continental had planned to devote 1% of its redevelopment budget for the parking lot to creating a tribute to the cannery workers on its Parque del Sol parcel. This would have included a landscaped area with cannery artifacts and plaques. **Lee Wilson**, Vice President of Administration, has noted that Continental still has one employee, **Teresa Silva**, who once worked at the cannery.

(Continued on Page 5)

(CANNERY WORKERS TRIBUTE continued from Page 4)

Learning of Continental's plans, and desiring to recognize the huge impact the cannery industry and its people have had on the life and economy of San Diego in the not-so-distant past, the Port, through its public art program, decided to partner with Continental Maritime to create a strong and lasting artistic tribute on this site.

Over 20 artist/design teams responded to an advertised request for proposals. After vetting the proposals through the Port's public art committee and various community meetings, the design team of Nature Works and Deadalus Design Group was selected. Groundbreaking occurred in September 2007 with 3-D Enterprises as the prime construction contractor. The artwork for the tribute is currently being fabricated by Nature Works and Art Mosaic.

Between 1911 and 1984, the processing of fish in San Diego's tuna canneries was one of the region's most important industries. San Diego was in fact considered the Tuna Capital of the world for much of this period. At one time, as many as ten canneries were in operation along San Diego's waterfront, mostly between Laurel Street and Crosby Street (now Cesar Chavez Parkway).

The canneries processed the fish catches brought in by the large fleet of locally-based boats, which ranged the far corners of the Pacific for the migratory tuna. The tuna boats and the canneries employed a large, thriving and diverse population of immigrants of many national origins—notably Japanese, Italian, Portuguese and Mexican—whose families were able to earn a good living and make a good start in America in this industry. Most of the cannery workers were women.

Today San Diego's once great tuna fleet and all of its canneries are gone, victims of intense foreign competition, depleted fish stocks, high labor costs and the unintended consequences of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. But the legacy of the industry lives on in the memories of those once employed therein. It is hoped that the Cannery Workers Tribute, when completed, will remind and inform all San Diegans and visitors of the inestimable contributions made by these people to the economy and history of our region.

WABI SABI: WHAT'S NEW AT THE AUSTIN ARCHIVES

by Linda A. Canada, Archivist

We're on the Internet (again)!

After much hard work by volunteers and our archival consultant **Jessica Silver**, the index to a large portion of our collection may be viewed online!

We are part of the Online Archive of California, a collection of over 5,000 institutions that hold important collections related to state and national history.

For those of you who have access to computers, here is where you can directly access our paperwork: http://content.cdlib.org/view?docId=kt2j49q7gs&doc.view=entire_text&brand=oac.

To learn more about the overall project, go to <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/about/>.

Having information available about both the materials **Don Estes** collected and that our members have provided, has been a major goal of our Board. We are pleased that you may now use the Internet to get a better understanding of the breadth and importance of our collection.

Please visit the index to see what we have been cataloguing and let us know what you think!



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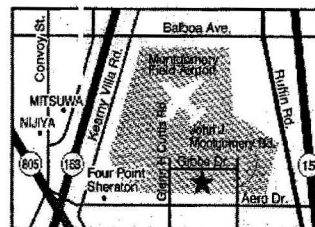


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JAPAN SOCIETY GALA HONORS AREA LEADERS

On January 29, 2008, the **Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana (JSSDT)** presented the 14th Annual Leadership Awards at an evening gala in Sea World's Nautilus Pavilion.

The awards honor "exceptional leaders who have made outstanding contributions to the promotion of goodwill and the advancement of business, civic, educational, and cultural interexchange and understanding between the people of Japan, San Diego, and Tijuana."

Recognized this year were: **Malin Burnham** of John Burnham & Company (Business Leadership Award), **Enrique Carrillo Barrios-Gomez** of the Xochicalco University System (Reischauer International Education Award), and **Roy Muraoka** of Muraoka Enterprises (Phillips Community Award). (See story below.)

In addition to the special recognitions, the gala included a sit-down dinner, sake tasting, and a high-end silent auction benefiting the JSSDT.

Executive Director **Dave Tuites** was an affable host, Program Director **Aya Ibarra** did an admirable job of planning the event, and **Andrea Nakano** skillfully served as the program's MC.

The gala, originally planned for last October, had to be rescheduled when a water main break that afternoon near Sea World resulted in no running water for the venue.

ROY MURAOKA RECEIVES AWARD

by Michio Himaka

In January 2008, the Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana (JSSDT) honored Roy Muraoka with the 2007 Phillips Community Award. Mich was asked to introduce Roy. We thank Mich for sharing the text of his presentation.

Much has happened since that October 4, 2007, night when this event was originally scheduled.

Tonight, we are missing one person who deserves to be here to enjoy the honor that is about to be bestowed on **Roy Muraoka**. I speak, of course, of **Aiko Muraoka**, Roy's beloved wife of 47 years. Four days after the original date of this event, we lost Aiko at the age of 69 due to a fatal aneurysm.

I think Roy would agree that without Aiko's blessing, support and encouragement, he could not have accomplished those things that have earned him the recognition he is about to receive. If I may inject a note of solemnity here, I ask you please to join me in a moment of silence honoring the memory of Aiko Muraoka. Thank you.

I'm honored to be among such distinguished company tonight and flattered to have been asked to present to you the recipient of your Dr. Randal Phillips Community Award, Roy S. Muraoka. And I thank the City of San Diego for paying its water bill and fixing its pipe leak.

Roy and I first met some 65 years ago as an "accident" of World War II. Our families lived in the horse stables at the Santa Anita Racetrack in Arcadia when some 120,000 Japanese Americans were uprooted from their West Coast homes and incarcerated in relocation camps.

As unfortunate as that event was, we did meet a lot of new people.

Roy is the oldest of four children born to the late Saburo and Haruko Muraoka, who were active in the San Diego Japanese community here.

As a community leader, Roy's father was among those arrested as enemy aliens and sent to internment camps.

Roy, his mother and two sisters and other San Diego Japanese

families were rounded up April 8, 1942, and sent to Santa Anita, which served as their home for four months. On August 27, 1942, San Diegans were relocated again to Poston, Arizona. In 1944, Roy's father chose to reunite the family and they relocated to Crystal City, Texas.

The move to Crystal City also proved to be a fortuitous for Roy. It was there that he met the six-year-old **Aiko Fujii** of Gardena who eventually would become his bride. After the war, the Muraoka family moved back to Chula Vista where they resumed farming.

Roy graduated from Chula Vista High in 1950. About a week after graduation, the Korean War broke out and Roy was drafted into the Army serving as a medical technician. After completing his service, Roy resumed farming with his father and later teamed up to form numerous businesses under **Muraoka Enterprises**, which Roy manages today.

On June 25, 1960, Roy and Aiko would marry. The marriage would produce two sons, **Tad** in 1963 and **Ken** in 1967. Today, the family includes three grandchildren, **Trevor**, **Trina** and **Cassidy**.

Roy's service career started modestly in 1970 as president of the San Diego Buddhist Temple's Adult Buddhist Association. In 1974, he and others formed the **Japanese American Memorial VFW Post 4851** and he served a term as post commander in 1980.

His father [**Saburo Muroako**] and the late **Will Hippen**, who was the Honorary Consul of Japan for San Diego, began coordinating the annual visits of the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force training vessels. Roy continues that program today.

Roy was vice president and later president of the **Japanese Coordinating Council**, which coordinates activities of religious and cultural organizations in the community. He is a director of the **San Diego-Yokohama Sister City Society**, which his father helped found as the nation's first Sister City society during the Eisenhower presidency.

Roy is a director and treasurer of the **Chula Vista-Odawara Sister City Society**. He also serves the **Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Southern California**, the **Japanese Friendship Garden** in Balboa Park, and the **Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana**, which sponsors tonight's 14th Annual Leadership Awards Gala.

On June 27, 2002, Roy was presented the City of Chula Vista's highest award, the Robert B. Botterman Humanitarian Award. On August 16, that same year, the City of San Diego proclaimed the day "Roy Muraoka Day."

His reaction to all this?

"I've been very lucky," Roy says.

He's also been very deserving.

He would be the first to acknowledge he could not have done it without the blessing, support, encouragement and approval of his late, beloved life's partner, Aiko, whom we also honor tonight.

Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you, Roy Muraoka.

Presenting the award to Mr. Muraoka tonight is **Yen Tu**, representing Viejas Enterprises, sponsor of the Phillips Community Award.

OOPS! WE MAKES MISTEAKS

In the 2007 Winter Issue, Page 18: The article was written by our good friend **Margaret Ishino** of Los Angeles, not by our good friend **Margaret (Arakawa) Ikeda** of San Diego! Both Margarets were among the youngsters who penned Librarian **Clara Breed** the now-famous letters from camp.

Jim Tajiri of Pebble Beach provided the information in the Winter 2007 "Celebrations" column on Page 9 about his brother **Shinkichi Tajiri's** bridge sculpture dedication. He reported that Shinkichi's grandchildren are surnamed Tajiri, not Roberts.

Your Editor regrets these errors.

REMEMBERING A SPECIAL FRIEND



The late Mrs. **Michi Okuma** (left) with JAHSSD board member **Nancy Cowser**. Mrs. Okuma was always generous in sharing with JAHSSD artifacts and photographs from her personal collection. In early 2007, she participated in an oral history program conducted by Jay Kravath of the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT). This photo was taken at Kiku Gardens during the taping of that oral history. CRIT recently donated a copy of the tapes to JAHSSD.

PHOTO I.D. PARTIES CONTINUE

JAHSSD's casual get-togethers to help identify people, places and events in some of the Archive's hundreds of photographs will continue through May on the last Tuesday of each month.

Anyone with the desire to help the Society is invited to meet at the Austin site at 10:00 a.m. the following dates: **March 25, April 29 and May 27.**

Though most of the photos we'll be looking at are of San Diegans and their families, there are also some in our collection which are a total mystery. These need to be identified as well. So *any* of our membership is welcome to join in *any* session. You may just help solve a mystery!

Austin Archives is at 10464 Austin Drive, Suite F, in Spring Valley. Take 94 Fwy., go south on Sweetwater Springs Rd., turn left on Austin Drive. It is wheelchair accessible.

We'll provide the photos, refreshments, magnifiers and encouragement. You provide the memory!

Call **Linda Canada** (858/457-9676) if you need more information.



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IN GRATITUDE

JAHSSD gratefully acknowledges the following monetary gifts to the Society since our last newsletter. If we have inadvertently omitted your donation, please accept our sincere apologies. Notify Nancy Cowser at (858) 270-0733 for correction.

BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SAN DIEGO

CLAIRE ESTES
In honor of CAROL ESTES

TOSHIYE C. ESTES
In honor of
MIKE and MARY LOU HASEGAWA
and FRANK A. and SUMIYO E. KASTELIC

LESLIE HASEGAWA and DOUGLAS BARTLETT
In memory of DONALD H. ESTES

PATRICIA HASEGAWA and EDWARD ZIMMERLY
In memory of DONALD H. ESTES

MICHIO and NAOMI HIMAKA
In memory of MICHIO OKUMA

RUTH ELLEN KAPLAN

EDWARD K. KUBOTA

RITSUKO NABETA
In memory of FRED FUKUMI NABETA

RAJAM ROOSE and MATTHEW ESTES
In memory of DONALD H. ESTES

KENJI SATO and FAMILY
In memory of SATOKO THELMA SATO

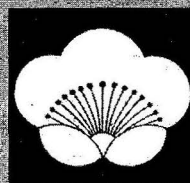
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In memory of SHOJI DATE

TERESA ANN THOMAS

WACKY WORLD STUDIOS, LLC
In memory of SATOKO THELMA SATO

SAKIKO KADA
In memory of MICHIO OKUMA

WHY DO WE RECORD WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW? WHY DON'T WE JUST TALK ABOUT YESTERDAY?



Because what we experience, endeavor, accomplish and overcome today becomes our history tomorrow.

*Write it down. Photograph it. Share it.
Help preserve our history.*

CHANKO NABE

by Joyce Nabeta Teague

Hamyu Revisited

A couple of years back I went over the culinary deep end and devoted a couple of long columns to hamyu—or as our new president refers to it—“ham-pew.” Those columns elicited my biggest reader response to date because anyone who knows about hamyu is either firmly “fer it” or “agin it” and never neutral on the subject.

For those blinking cluelessly, hamyu is a plate of steamed chopped pork and fat topped with fermented salted fish that to aficionados is heavenly comfort food and to detractors should only be eaten in remotely-located, hermetically-sealed Hamyu Huts because, well, it smells really bad.

Hamyu holds a fond place in some memories and tummies because it was a staple in pre-war eateries like San Diego’s long-defunct **Nanking Cafe** in what is now the Gaslamp Quarter; or the fabled **Far East Cafe** in L.A.’s Lil Tokyo which closed when damaged by the Northridge earthquake.

Run by Cantonese immigrants who were offering clientele familiar back-home tastes, these “china meshi” (Chinese restaurants) were frequented by Japanese newcomers who learned to love favorites like Almond Duck, Shrimp in Lobster Sauce, Pakkai, Chow Mein with Pan-Fried Noodles, Cashew Chicken, Snow Peas with Water Chestnuts, Chashu (which you’d dip in a brown mixture of Colman mustard and soy sauce), Beef Rice, and of course, Hamyu.

My father loved china meshi in general and hamyu especially, and any Nabeta family visit to my parents’ stomping grounds when I was growing up was not complete without a meal at the Far East, the seven of us crowded in a wooden booth with the curtains drawn for privacy.

The meal would start with egg flower or wonton soup served in small individual bowls, followed by a steady presentation of steaming dishes which were served family-style, accompanied by copious amounts of long-grain rice, and ending with a fortune cookie for each diner. This was back in the day when a fortune cookie contained an actual prediction about your future instead of the current inoffensive pleasantries like, “You are admired by those around you.” Well, duh!

Cantonese restaurants now have competition from Sichuan, Hunan, and other regional Chinese cuisines, so some of the dishes I remember are now hard to find. That’s why, being an unabashed sentimentalist, I’ve devoted so many column inches to the topic. And why I’m it bringing up again. My short-term memory may be going, but my long-term tummy still remembers.

Sometime last year, knowing that Bill and I had enjoyed eating at the original Far East Cafe before its demise, a gal pal who lives in Tujunga sent me a food review she had come across. It was written back in August 2006, so already dated when we got it.

It described the new restaurant that replaced the Far East Cafe, now called the **Chop Suey Cafe**. It was under new ownership and the menu was also new.

Aware of locals’ nostalgia for the old Far East menu, the new owners tried in vain to duplicate the original recipes for some of the original dishes like Almond Duck. According to the article, they had even tried to get the son of one of the original Far East owners to work for them part-time there just to recreate the lost tastes. But the gentleman, **Dewey Jeong**, was running his own restaurant in Boyle Heights and was looking forward to retirement. Apparently negotiations to purchase the recipes also failed.

The article said in 1961, Dewey and his wife had started their own

restaurant and there you would be able to find some of the classics from his father’s long-defunct restaurant. Cool, I thought. This place is a must-stop on our next trip to L.A.

But sometime after I read it, the clipping got buried in one of my many paper piles and was forgotten about till the crucial day last fall when Bill and I found ourselves in Lil Tokyo, hungry for lunch and literally drooling at the thought of Almond Duck and hamyu.

For the life of me, I couldn’t recall the name of the restaurant where we were supposed to be able to find the throwback Far East dishes. I kept thinking it was called Golden “Something” and was somewhere along Alameda St.

I searched the phone book without luck. Asked at the Miyako Inn and got a blank stare. Even stopped some old timers walking along First Street in Lil Tokyo. One Nisei gent thought we might be looking for the Formosa Cafe in nearby Boyle Heights—Brooklyn Street, he thought. So I searched in the phone listings for a Formosa Cafe without luck.

Bill and I even got in the car and drove several blocks up and down Brooklyn, now renamed Cesar Chavez Ave., hoping to spot a Chinese restaurant among the many taquerias along the boulevard. No luck. We ended up having lunch elsewhere. But after our stomachs were full, we were still thinking about a bowl of hot rice and a plate of stinks-to-high-heaven hamyu.

Which leads me to the end of this rambling story. This morning while rummaging through a pile of papers in the bedroom, I found the missing clipping. The restaurant we had been seeking is called the **New Formosa Cafe**. Its address is 2415 E. Cesar Chavez Ave. in Boyle Heights. It’s closed Sundays and Mondays.

We are scheduled to hightail it up to L.A. area before the month-end to purchase supplies we can only find there. Natch, we’ve planned extra time to find the New Formosa and order from its secret side menu called “Far East Favorites.”

I hope fervently Mr. Jeong hasn’t decided to close up shop in the interim and taken those precious recipes with him into retirement.

Hamyu and beef rice, here we come!

WASHINGTON D.C., CHERRY BLOSSOM CAPITOL

by Rio Imamura

Rio is a JAHSSD Life Member who now lives in Fukuoka, Japan. A seasoned writer and world traveler, Rio is an occasional contributor to Footprints. He recently was granted permission by Scholastic Publishing to translate Joanne Oppenheim’s book, Dear Miss Breed, for publication in Japan.

The famous cherry trees in Washington D.C. came from Japan after many twists and turns.

The 2007 Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington D.C. marked the 95th celebration of the original gift of 3,000 trees from the city of Tokyo to the people of Washington D.C. in 1912. The Japanese wanted to thank President Theodore Roosevelt for his endeavors to conclude the Russo-Japanese War. But the first trees delivered in the early 1900s were infested, so were burnt to ashes.

The water-loving trees have thrived around the basin banks and along the Potomac River, and D.C. has been known as the cherry blossom capitol of the U.S. Literally millions of visitors go to the nation’s capitol just to view the cherry blossoms. No politics!

Today, cherry trees have spread all over the U.S. thanks to the efforts of the National Cherry Blossom Festival in D.C. and the Japan

(Continued on Page 9)

(WASHINGTON D.C. continued from Page 8)

Cherry Blossom Association based in Tokyo. The latter donates 20 to 30 thousand trees each year worldwide, as well as dispatching Sakura specialists upon request for maintenance and consultation to major cities like Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Seattle and San Francisco.

There are about 200 kinds of cherry trees and two classifications: Higanzakura (early flowering) and Yamazakura (leafy late blossoming). The latter has a longer life of about a couple of hundred years.

The most popular kind we see and enjoy is the Somei-Yoshino, a hybrid of the Higanzakura and Yamazakura. Somei-Yoshino has a life span as long as that of most humans. Most of the trees in the U.S. are Somei-Yoshino.

The Japanese have a special attachment to the cherry blossoms of the Somei-Yoshino. Sharing a similar life cycle may be one of the reasons. March and April mark the end as well as the beginning of the Japanese fiscal (both governmental and corporate) and school year, and therefore the memorable start of everything in their life careers at whatever stage they may be. Japanese tend to associate and weigh these events with the appearance of the cherry blossoms.

But the fact is that Japanese most of all admire the sincere volley-firing splendor, almost eccentric, of cherry blossoms, in bursting out thousands of flowers simultaneously on one tree, 24 hours every day. Inebriated partying rituals by the Japanese under the trees with beer and sake drinking are like wrestlers tapping the floor to gesture surrender... or going mad in self-contempt as we compare ourselves with the natural and straightforward outburst of the cherry blossoms.

Another Washington memorial was added in November 2000. It is named the **National Japanese-American Memorial**. Very belated memorial, so they say "rededicated" memorial. The venue is away from the Mall, away from the tidal basin cherry trees, and unfortunately, for a reason I don't know, very far from other war memorials. The Tidal Basin would have been an ideal location.

I walked from the Union Station south along Louisiana towards the Dept. of Labor. The Memorial is at the southern end but seems to be still inside the Union Station Plaza, a protruding triangle of about 3/4 of an acre at the crossing corner of Louisiana and New Jersey.

The purpose of the Memorial is two-fold: to honor the loyalty and courage of the Japanese American soldiers who fought and died in Europe during World War II; and to make an official apology for the injustice suffered by 120,000 Japanese American men, women and children placed in a dozen concentration camps located in Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, etc., and a pledge such an injustice will never happen again.

The center piece is a 15-ft. tall bronze sculpture by **Nina Akamu**, a contemporary American artist who won the famed Henry Hering Award for her Golden Cranes in 2002: two cranes with their pinioned wings entangled in barbed wire. Their beaks are wide open with agonized whoops, gasping to soar. The sculpture makes the cranes symbolic of the Japanese Americans denied their freedom.

The west wall of the memorial simply lists the names of the major camps in stark black letters, while an opening in the east wall affords a glimpse of a tranquil pool of water studded with five rugged rocks. As you walk past a wall engraved with the names of more than 800 Japanese Americans who died during the war, you end your visit in front of an unusual tubular bell created by **Paul Matisse**. The bell rings when you press on the lever. Its soulful, lingering sound captures the spirit of this monument.

I saw cherry trees are planted nearby. When Spring comes, they will surely add lively colors and compassion with respect to the deceased.

THREE-YEAR PLEDGE RENEWALS

The JAHSSD Board of Directors is very grateful those who have pledged their support of the Society's Three-Year Plan. This list includes pledge payments and new gifts received as of January 16, 2008. Please notify our Treasurer of any errors.



SAKURA LEVEL

AMY MAYA HONDA and WAYNE A. O'NEIL

In memory of

MASAMI HONDA and RUTH YAEKO HONDA



MOMIJI LEVEL

MARY T. YAMADA

In memory of DR. HENRY "HANK" YAMADA



TAKE LEVEL

MICHIO and NAOMI HIMAKA

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Naomi M. Himaka, Membership Chair

A warm welcome to **Grace H. Takeuchi** who has joined our organization since our last edition of *Footprints*. Grace is our new treasurer.

Thank you to everyone who recently renewed their memberships: **Sachio & Irene Yamamoto, Sandy Nakamura, Mary Kaneyuki, Shuji Miyasaki, Joe Karamoto, Liz Suhama, Grace Igasaki, Eugene Yamada, Shig & June Yamashita, James Ochi, Masako Matsuhara, Taka & Beverly Sawasaki, Kiyoko Takemoto, Kimie Kaneyuki, Fred Y. Nakatani, Janet Ochi-Fontanott & Humberto Fontanott, Frank & Jean Boyd, Mariam Kikuchi Oyama, Kimiye Tachiki, Ken & Akiko Matsumoto, Jane Takeshita, Glenn & Keiko Negoro, Marilou Seki, Shizu Watanabe, John & Reiko Rae Maruyama, Chikaye Mary Itami, Miki Honda, Shizue Maruyama, Mary Doi, Yukiko Sugiyama, Peggy Tsurudome, Mitsuo Tomita, Shirley Omori, Ralph & Avis Honda and Chizuko Shinzaki.**

The following friends also renewed their memberships recently: **Michael Okuma, George & Chiyoko Masumoto, Ken & Judy Miyamoto, Kenn & Karin Kashima, June Hosaka, Frank & Tami Kinoshita, Kazuko H. Pintang, Susumu Satow & Tami Matsumoto Satow, Sud (Ruth) Morishita, Sue S. Gerrish, Robin T. Shimasaki, Les & Allyne Tachiki, Ford & Terri Omori, Kenneth & Katherine Koba, Sheila & Ron Yagura, Fred & Becky Hatashita, Holly & Ronald M. Hidinger, Stephen Yahiro, Florence Yamashita, Kuniko Nishimura, Ray Kunitaru & Theresa Imiko Mayeda, Glenn M. & Barbara K. Hashiguchi, Fudo Takagi, Joseph Correia, Cookie I. Taniguchi, Larry Shimamoto, Sakiko Kada, Ruth Fujimoto, Jon & Carrie A. Ware Kawamoto and Linda McLemore.**

Our members make possible our exhibits, oral history collection, classroom visits, educational projects and archives maintenance.

LOCAL ACLU CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

The **American Civil Liberties Union of San Diego & Imperial Counties** celebrated its 75th anniversary at a gala on March 13, 2008, attended by 400 members and guests.

Among them were **Fred Oyama** of Escondido and his sister, **Alice Yano**, who resides in Rancho Bernardo. The Oyama siblings were recognized as ACLU recounted highlights of its history.

Oyama v. California was a landmark case which in 1945 challenged California's **Alien Land Act** which forbade Asian immigrants, specifically farmers of Japanese descent, from owning or leasing land.

Evacuated to Utah after the outbreak of World War II, the Oyama family learned its Chula Vista home had been seized by California under the Alien Land Act. With ACLU attorney **A. L. Wirin**, **Kajiyo Oyama** and his son Fred challenged the seizure. They lost in the lower courts, but won the landmark decision when the case reached the U.S. Supreme Court.

Oyama v. California established the principle that immigrants were protected by the 14th amendment and as such guaranteed equal treatment and equal protection.

WE GET LETTERS

Dear Mrs. Gwen Momita and Board Members:

Thank you very much for the impressive Kansha Award from the Japanese American Historical Society. I am humbled and sincerely appreciate the recognition for not only myself, but for the many volunteers who serve those less fortunate here at home in San Diego as well as those in foreign countries.

Many of you already "serve at home" through the JAHSSD, the Buddhist Temple and other churches and organizations in San Diego. So to single out two individuals [for the 2007 Kansha Award] is more than an honor, it is an obligation to continue and redouble our efforts to help those in need.

It is my firm belief that there are many in this world who need our help and that those of us with a full stomach and an education should step up to the plate and help. One of my opening slides for students goes like this: Don't look at your education as "what you can get from it," but "what you become because of it."

In a single word, Gwen described these thoughts. The word is "service." To those of you who serve the JAHSSD and the San Diego community, we sincerely thank you and look forward to a brighter future for everyone.

Gratefully,
Terry and Naomi Tanaka and Family

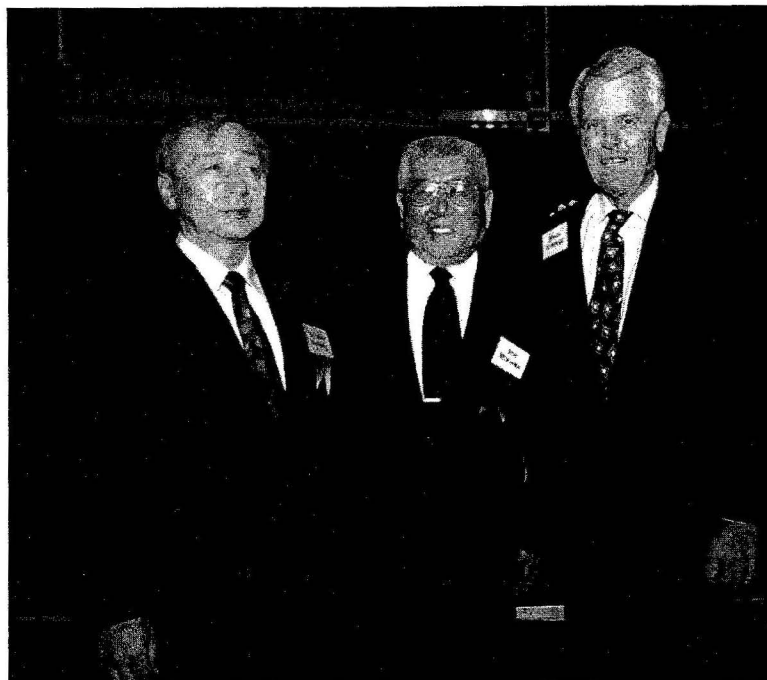
Dear Friends:

On January 10, 2008, at the New Year's reception, based on formal instructions, Consul General Kodama announced his transfer order to return to Tokyo. We apologize for the extremely late notice as Consul General and Mrs. Kodama departed Los Angeles the following day after a very short one and one-half year stay. [He] and Mrs. Kodama had expressed their deep regret for not having had the opportunity to bid farewell to their many supporters and friends in Southern California and Arizona.

Consul General Kodama...requested a copy of the [farewell] speech be provided to those who have been unable to attend. We hope [the message] provides some explanation and conveys Consul General and Mrs. Kodama's appreciation for all who have supported them.

Sincerely,
Yoshimasa Tezuka
Acting Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles

COMM

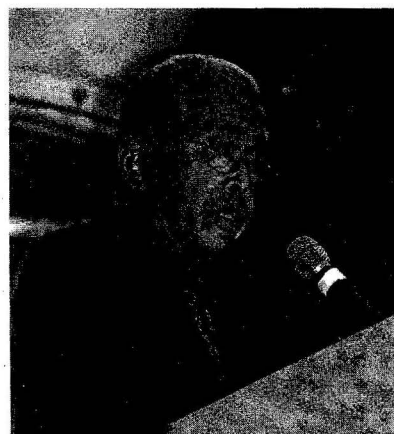


THE JAPAN SOCIETY ANNUAL GALA, January 29, 2008: Above left, C Award winner) and **Enrique Carrillo Barrios-Gomez** (Reischauer International

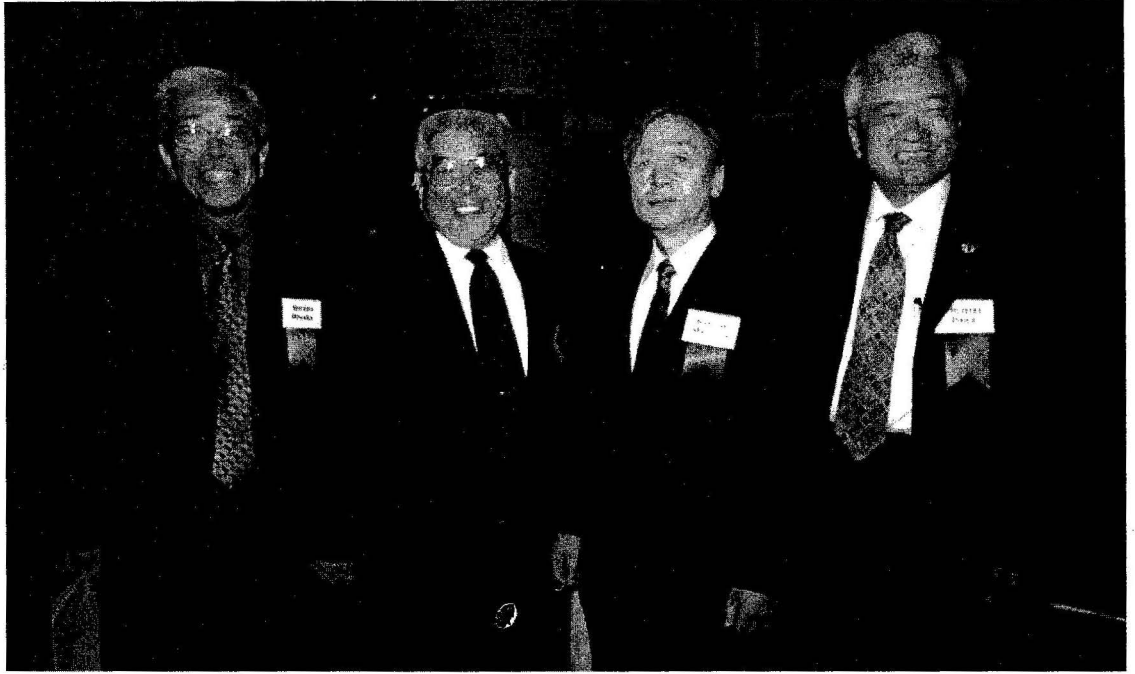
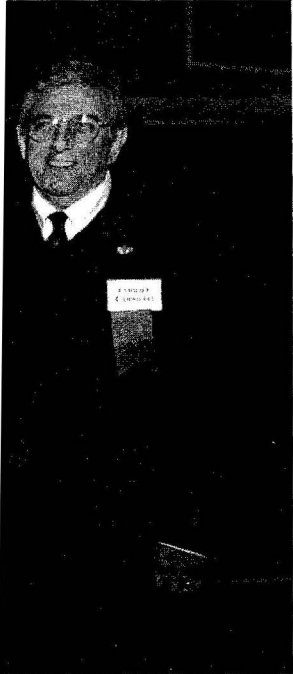
Right: **Tad Muraoka** (left) and **Ken Muraoka** (right) with their father Roy who was honored for lifelong community service at the Japan Society Gala in Sea World's Nautilus Pavilion on January 29.

Below left: JAHSSD's Michio Himaka introduces Roy to the gathering.

Below right: Roy expresses his thanks to his family and the community. Over 300 people attended the gala.



UNITY SNAPSHOTS



il Katsumi Maruoka (Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles), **Roy Muraoka** (Phillips Community Award winner), **Malin Burnham** (Business Leadership Education Award winner). Above right: **Mich Himaka**, **Roy Muraoka**, **Consul Maruoka**, Honorary Consul General of Japan in San Diego **Mike Inoue**.

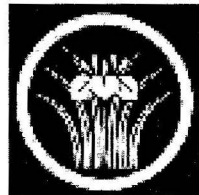


Photo credits:
Julie Kim (JSSDT Gala)
Gwen Momita (Austin Archives)



PHOTO I.D. PARTY: Members and friends participated in a photo identification party at the Austin Archive. Above from left: **Taka Sawasaki**, **Susan Hasegawa**, **Yuki Kawamoto**, and **Motoo Tsuneyoshi** share stories of "small kid time." Left: **Susan** with **Mits Kawamoto** and **Po Kaneyuki** as they recall names and faces in group photos from the Buddhist Temple.



Photo I.D. parties begin at 10 a.m. on the last Tuesday of the month (through May) at 10464 Austin Drive, Suite F, Spring Valley. They are fun! Bring your lunch and your memories. Call JAHSSD for directions, 619/660-0174.

MAZEGOHAN

by Mich Himaka

What amount of tears can man shed in less than a day?

Recent personal experience provided me, my wife, our two sons and our daughter-in-law the answer: the tear supply is endless.

I lost my oldest brother, **Osa**, around noon on Jan. 31.

Some 16 hours later, on Feb. 1, we lost the wife of a man who has been more than a brother to me. **Patsy Harue Yanagihara** was more than a good friend to all of us. She was a "big" sister, a confidant, advisor, consultant, "a good buddy," and an aunty to me, **Naomi**, **Keith**, **Dawn** and **Daniel**.

"I miss her a lot," Naomi said a few days after Patsy's passing. They used to talk to one another almost every day or night. Not just to see how she was doing but to share a laugh, a story, or just "girl-talk."

When Naomi and I returned from our honeymoon some 37 years ago, the first people we called were **Rev. Jim** and Patsy to introduce my new bride to them. They were living in Kyoto at the time, where Jim was completing his ministerial studies.

They had never met so I was apprehensive as to how they would accept one another as new friends. I should have been more concerned whether they would continue to accept me!

They hit it off with Naomi right away and took her into their circles of friends without hesitation. Jim questioned my wife's wisdom in her choice of mate but that's another story. (My wife is questioning it, too.)

I looked up Patsy's and Naomi's Japanese horoscope and found they were boar-year people, which meant they make friends easily and usually for life. Having a boar-year person for a friend is indeed a fortuitous event, the horoscope says. I've found it to be true.

When I called Jim and Patsy's home and she answered, my usual greeting was, "Haro, oba-san!"

Her greeting to me was always, "Haro, oji-san!"

I miss her greeting.

I miss not being able to tease her about sharing our March 25th birthdays. She always made sure that her acquaintances knew that we were NOT the same age!

I miss her high-pitched voice echoing in the Buddhist Temple's hallway. I miss her hustle and bustle of beehive activity wherever she would be.

I miss her laughter, which was often.

Yes, I miss Patsy Yanagihara as anyone would a close sister.

Which brings me to our other loss, the passing of my brother, **Osa**, some 16 hours before Patsy's passing.

As a kid, I remember seeing a family picture taken somewhere in Balboa Park with yours truly missing. I remember asking my folks where I was and was told, "We tried to call you but you wouldn't come out of the bushes so we took the picture without you."

For years, I looked carefully into the surrounding bushes but couldn't find myself. Then, after learning about the "birds and bees," I knew then that I wasn't even thought of then!

But there in the picture dressed in their Sunday best were my brothers and sisters with the folks. **Osa** and **Tetsu** wore knickers! Knickers! With high-topped stockings! (Kinda glad I was in the bushes!)

In a few years, though, I would remember **Osa** grabbing me by the back of my pants, pulling them into a wedgie with my underwear up my, well, wedge, and running down Fifth Avenue in downtown San Diego with my toes barely touching the ground.

I remember him carrying me across railroad tracks as the kids in the family—all six of us—walked from downtown to Fish Camp some

two or three miles away to visit friends on weekends. Papa would drive there later to pick us up.

Memories will fade as time goes on but I will remember the first major league baseball game he took me to in Cleveland to watch **Bob Feller** of the Indians pitch his first game since coming back from Navy duty during World War II. Feller lost to another future Hall of Fame pitcher, **Hal Newhouser** of the Detroit Tigers, 1-0.

Other baseball games would follow giving me a chance to see guys like **Ted Williams**, **Joe DiMaggio**, **Hank Greenberg** and others.

I remember my first pro football game, the Cleveland Browns against the Miami Seahawks in the first exhibition game of the new All-American Football Conference that would give the established National Football League its first real competition. The Browns won, 44-0.

For a "big brother," yeah, he was all right.

So was Brother No. 2, **Tetsuo**, who growls, "I never carried you."

Don't let his gruffness fool you, though. It's an act. He was all right as a "big brother," too.

So now our original family of eight is down to two.

Yeah, we miss the others, but there will be more tears to shed in our future.

We still have memories. They never end.

BALBOA PARK EXHIBITION TO FEATURE INTERNMENT ART

JAHSSD has been invited to install a major exhibition at the **Japanese Friendship Garden** to open June 2, 2008.

The three-month exhibition will be a highlight of the Garden's **August Moon** celebration in late summer. The subject will be art from the World War II internment camps.

Miho Ishida, JFG Program Director, said that to her knowledge, ours is the first historical exhibition of its type to be invited to the Garden's Exhibit House. The Garden usually displays the traditional arts and crafts familiar to Japanese culture. She anticipates great interest in the internment exhibition.

It is expected thousands of visitors from around the world will view our exhibition during the months when tourist traffic is especially high. Information about internment and photographs from our collection will be prominent so that visitors will learn how many Japanese Americans were forced to spend the years 1942-45.

Susan Hasegawa and **Linda Canada** are curating "Arts and Crafts of World War II Internment Camps." **Valerie Abe**, an artist who teaches architecture at Mesa College and a new volunteer for the Society, will design the exhibition. She has been busy measuring and photographing the many drawings, paintings, and sculptures to be included.

In addition to these examples of fine arts, craft items like bird pins, wood canes, and polished or carved rocks will illustrate the creativity of those held in the camps.

Several people have generously loaned us objects to be displayed. (See a partial list in "Caught Doing Something Nice" on Page 3.) But we are still inviting more examples of camp-made arts and crafts, especially those that have not been displayed publicly before. If you have a family treasure from any of the camps that you would be willing to loan us, please call **Linda Canada**, (858) 457-9676. The Exhibit House has beautiful locking exhibition cases and provides a secure setting for our treasured artworks.

The Society is appreciative of **Steve Sato** of the JFG Board for his part in having JAHSSD invited to create this unusual exhibition.

PADRES COMMUNITY DAY IS FUNDRAISER FOR NIKKEI ORGS

JAHSSD members and friends are invited to a summertime baseball game at Petco Park, San Diego Padres vs. Seattle Mariners on Friday, June 27 at 7:05 p.m.

By special arrangement with the Padres, the **Japan Society of San Diego & Tijuana (JSSDT)** is presenting **Japanese Community Day**, a chance for local Nikkei organizations to come out and enjoy the ball game featuring **Tadahito Iguchi** (Pads) and **Kenji Johjima** and **Ichiro Suzuki** (Mariners) while raising funds for their group.

A percentage of each ticket sold will be donated to the affiliated groups by JSSDT. Besides JAHSSD, the other groups which will benefit from this fundraiser are the **Buddhist Temple of San Diego**, **Japanese Friendship Garden**, **Minato Gakuen** and **San Diego JACL**.

The tix are \$39 (reg \$50) for the private Toyota Terrace section behind first base. Amenities include wider, padded seats with extra leg room. A pre-game picnic option is available for an additional \$36.

If you'd like to attend the game and support JAHSSD, too, fill out the colored insert included in this issue and send it with your payment to the Japan Society. You can also go to their website, www.japan-society.org, to order tickets. Just be sure to mark the "Historical Society" box so JAHSSD gets credit for the online sale.

Seats for last year's Community Day sold out quickly, so order your tickets early to ensure seating with JAHSSD.

We thank the Japan Society for this opportunity to both come together for a fun event and benefit our organization at the same time.

DINNER TO PRECEDE VFW BINGO FOUR TIMES A YEAR

Not long after the **Asian Pacific VFW Post 4851** vacated their long-time headquarters in National City in 2006, they arranged with the **Buddhist Temple of San Diego** to offer bingo games in the temple's spacious Annex Hall. **VFW Bingo Night** is co-sponsored by the temple and proceeds benefit both organizations. For a \$10 buy-in, dozens of enthusiasts have been having fun trying their luck at bingo each month.

Beginning this March on a trial basis, the temple will offer a pre-game dinner for four of this year's Bingo Nights. This will be welcome news for those who miss the famous chicken dinners served for many years at the old VFW Hall preceding the games there. Some regular players have been enjoying the social aspect of the evening by bringing and eating take-out together in the hall before the games begin.

Dates of this year's dinners are March 29, June 28, September 27 and November 1. The dinners will be served between 4:30-5:45 p.m. (Bingo runs from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.) VFW Bingo Nights are scheduled the last Saturday of every month of 2008 except October.

The menu will vary depending on the cooks assigned to coordinate each dinner. For March 29, a complete spaghetti dinner including salad, garlic bread and dessert will be offered for a donation of \$7.00.

A limited number of dinners will be prepared and tickets will be sold at the door on a first-come, first-served basis.

To assure a dinner, you can purchase tickets in advance at the temple on Sundays or call the office during the week, (619) 239-0896. You can also buy tickets in advance during Bingo Nights.

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TURNING JAPANESE, I THINK I'M TURNING JAPANESE:

Thoughts of a Part-time Sansei

by Bert Tanaka, Jr.

Bert, a computer programmer, grew up in San Diego and now resides in West Covina. His grandfather, Kyuji Aizumi, partnered with Tokonosuke Abe to establish a major fish brokerage, Southern Commercial Co., in San Diego during the 1930s. This is the first half of an essay Bert wrote recently thinking about his Japanese heritage. The conclusion will appear in the Summer 2008 Issue. The title "Turning Japanese" comes from a popular song from the 1980s by The Vapors.

Unlike many Japanese Americans, I experienced Japanese culture only tangentially. Happy with my life on the perimeter, I spent a large part of my younger childhood being Caucasian.

My parents never talked much about race. Sometimes I would get a lecture about how I should expect to have to work harder than someone who was non-Japanese in order to achieve the same success. Or how other people would judge all other Japanese by my behavior so it was important to act accordingly. They would tell me that I was Japanese every now and then, but I really didn't get it. Of course, this is coming from a person who believed that Santa Claus was a real person up until the fourth or fifth grade.



Bert Tanaka, Jr. as a tenth grader, circa 1960

Growing Up "Caucasian"

For the most part, I couldn't really differentiate between the races when I was young. My parents looked white to me. I looked white. All my friends looked white. It was only after I grew older, that we seemed to morph into other races. Grudgingly I gave up my dreams of marrying either Doris Day or June Allison. Being Japanese was what other people were telling me what I was and sometimes, not in a very kind way.

Back then, I rarely felt Japanese. I didn't speak Japanese. Never went to Japanese school, never learned any martial arts, never joined a Japanese club. Never participated in any activity that might have bonded me to Japanese culture. It seems like I've been yinging and yanging between racial identities forever. I'm white. No, I'm Japanese. No, I'm Mexican. No, I just want to be Mexican. I'm a blues traditionalist: a black man trapped in a Japanese body. I think I'm a chameleon.

I attended a Japanese church intermittently. I didn't know the other kids very well and remained on the outside of the social circle there. Sometimes the service would be in Japanese and the handouts would be written in a code I couldn't read either. I really enjoyed not going there. As nearly as I could figure out, Japanese church was the Lord's way of punishing you for not being bilingual.

Communication within my family was poor, especially with my father. He was a TV repairman. During the week, he got up at nine, long after I

had left for school. Usually, he didn't get home until around ten at night, long after I had gone to bed. He worked Saturdays and Sundays.

When I got older, I used to work at the shop on the weekends to earn an allowance. Even then, I didn't see a lot of him because he mainly did house calls on the weekends while I tended the shop. Dad kept this schedule pretty much as long as I could remember. He worked less when he got older, but I was long gone by then.

Things weren't much better for my mother. She watched the shop during the day so that my father could do house calls. TVs were very expensive then. Not like today that when they break, you just throw them away and get a new one. In any case, I didn't see them as much as I would have liked.

Into the Military

My father had been in the Army. During World War II, he was in the 100th Battalion, and then the 442nd RCT. He was highly decorated. He moved up through the ranks and when he finally was discharged from the Army, he was a second Lieutenant.

I don't think very many people knew about his service in the Army because I never heard him talk about it. I found a box of his medals though, and some of the commendation descriptions sounded like they came out of a movie. I thought that he had been very brave, so it seemed curious to me that when I asked him about it (when I was much older) he just said that he was scared all the time he was in the field.

I think that his combat experiences in the Army, coupled with the pressures of trying to support his family in a country that was, in the years shortly after the end of WWII, hostile to Japanese Americans, skewed his perspective on some things. He always meant well, but his logic was often leveraged with the fulcrum located somewhere between "my way or the highway"—binding and non-negotiable.

It wasn't until I reached my 30s before I really started getting along well with him. He had grown smarter over the years. That must have been it. It isn't possible that I was the stupid one, is it? He died at age 69 but not before he knew that despite all the problems we had had earlier, I loved and respected him very much.

But let us move on to my fabulous military career.

I enlisted in the Navy. I think my main interest then was to have some fun and maybe get assigned to West Pac and see Japan. Here in the U.S., my reputation as a nerd was too well established and if I wanted to experience any new adventures, then I would have to travel far, far away where they had never heard of me.

My Dad served in the Army. He was a real hero. He fought in Italy and France. I, on the other hand, had a military career that resembled something out of Looney Tunes and managed to get through without earning even a single decoration. My Dad never said much to me about it except that he was glad that I didn't join the Army.

In boot camp, my company commander was an old First Class Petty Officer whose rate was Boiler Tender. On a tour in Japan, he met a woman there and married her. They must have had a good marriage because I thought he treated me well, in part because I was Japanese.

For instance, I hated getting up early, so I made a deal with him. I would sleep in late and miss breakfast, and instead go to calisthenics class in the afternoon. Calisthenics was exercise used as punishment. In high school I had been a gymnast, so most of the exercises were easier for me because of my earlier training. I didn't like them, but still thought being able to sleep in late was worth it.

Still, not fully aware of who I was, we watched old Victory at Sea movies after dinner, and it was then when I began to suspect that being Japanese wasn't always such a good thing. It had never occurred to me before that much of the Navy's traditions and history were tied to

(Continued on Page 15)

(I THINK I'M TURNING JAPANESE continued from Page 14)

combat against the Japanese during World War II. I was very naive.

Once my company commander came up to me and remarked how lucky I was to be in the Navy now.

"You know, there was a time not so long ago that the only thing you could have been was an Officer's Steward."

I had taken a test and would be going to electronics school after boot camp. Lucky or not, I didn't like boot camp much.

The Set-Back Company

I was in a "set-back" company. We were comprised of guys that had been set back, or made to start over because some had either failed to pass boot camp the first time or, like me, had arrived late because we had court tickets to be cleared before the Navy would accept us. About half the troop were Filipinos.

The Filipinos all enlisted for seven years. They could only be Officer Stewards, but after seven years, they could become U.S. citizens and transfer to different rates. Later, on all the ships that I served on, I always tried to make friends with the Filipinos because they had all the rice. Regular Navy chow then was pretty much potatoes, 24/7.

We used to have to march carrying a troop flag. Displayed on your troop flag were decorations we called gedunk medals. You got one for the best shined shoes, the best shave, the nicest looking uniforms, good marching—pretty much anything you could think of. We managed to get through 13 weeks of boot camp (longer because we were so special) with a virgin flag. Nothing, nada, nichts.

Damn. Even just one would have been nice.

We were a weird looking company because we had some kids who were as tall as 6 feet 2 or 3 inches, and some Filipinos that I'm pretty sure had to stand on their tiptoes just to make five feet. We often spent forever on this marching field called the grinder, in part because we had a hard time making long legs and short legs look like they were taking the same stride. Round and round. Round and round.

Once one of the chiefs directing our marching yelled over the speakers on the towers, "Do you think this is funny? Because you will not leave the grinder until you get it right."

All I know is that none of us were laughing. Tempers were short and patience for any missteps had long dissipated.

This was the closest I got to combat while I was in the Navy.

~ To be concluded next issue ~

JAHSSD ARCHIVIST TAKES INTERIM DIRECTOR POST

Our volunteer archivist, **Linda Canada**, is serving as Interim Executive Director for the San Diego Historical Society for a four-month period as the organization searches for a new Executive Director. Her part-time duties began February 1 and will continue through mid-June.

Linda is dividing her time between SDHS on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and working with Susan Hasegawa at the Austin Archives the remaining weekdays. Susan is researching and writing a pictorial book for JAHSSD, *Japanese Americans in San Diego*, scheduled to be published this fall.

At the January JAHSSD Board meeting, Linda announced she had been asked to fill the interim role until a new director is appointed, but that she had removed herself from consideration for the permanent role of Executive Director position.

Linda and Susan, together with Carol Estes, are mounting the special exhibition for the upcoming Poston Reunion in April.

COMMON COOKING POT ELICITS MEMORIES

by Alice Matsumoto

Last Fall at the BTSD Rummage Sale, Alice (née Akiko Nishii) spotted an unassuming cast-aluminum covered pot among the sale items and identified it as cookware like that her family used for many decades. When asked for information about the pot, this was her recollection.

I'm sure that a lot of Nikkei families are familiar with that heavy duty pot in various shapes and sizes, possibly purchased pre-WWII and after. The one my mother [Nobuo Nishii] had was given to her by the Shinoharas and has their name engraved in Japanese, and I believe a date also.

Anyway, I have no idea the name of company that produced the pots. Maybe someone who grew up in the South Bay area remembers the name of the company.

I just recall while growing up hearing stories that there was a salesman from up north who had come to demonstrate the pots. When the announcement of an imminent flood was made, everyone suddenly lost interest in the pots (probably in a hurry to prepare to evacuate their homes), much to the dismay of the salesman.

I don't have further details. Certainly it wasn't a rare pot and several may have been sold after the war which may diminish the historical interest in it.

Like most kids, I had to wash rice every day and I remember how perfect the rice came out when cooked in that type pot! Besides, it's virtually unbreakable—trust me, I know!

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FISHING NET:

Trolling for Internet Treasure

by Robert Irie

Born in New York City, Robert is a second-generation Japanese American residing in San Diego. He is a former maintainer of the seminal Asian American Resources web site, a portal site that listed Asian American resources in the early days of the Internet. Robert is interested in using technology to promote Japanese and Asian American cultural and language awareness and education. This issue he gets us up-to-speed on SNS.

Social networking sites (SNS) are web sites that encourage users to create profiles and establish links to other users, forming a network of friends or acquaintances.

A key aspect of such sites is the ability to contact and form relationships with second and higher order acquaintances, that is, "friends of friends" and other people you would not have known otherwise. Depending on the site's targeted demographics, you may find new friends, new business partners, jobs, activity partners, and groups of people who share a particular interest.

The following three sites are among the most widely used, with large active communities of individuals and groups.

- **Facebook** (www.facebook.com) has experienced phenomenal growth and visibility in the past year, when it opened membership to the general public (it had previously been exclusive for students). As of January, 2008, it has more than 60 million active users and caters mostly to college students and young professionals, with users that are predominantly Caucasian and middle class. Groups can be found and formed by geographical location, special interest, or affiliation with an organization (company, university, etc.).

- **MySpace** (www.myspace.com), one of the first social networking sites, is still one of the biggest sites, with 110 million users. MySpace users were predominantly teenagers, with more minorities represented than at Facebook. More recently, however, there are some indications that MySpace users 35 years and higher are growing.

- **LinkedIn** (www.linkedin.com) focuses exclusively on professionals seeking to network or to find jobs. It has a simpler and more austere user interface than Facebook or Myspace, with fewer bells and whistles. With more than 20 million users, it has a considerably smaller but more affluent user base than either Facebook or MySpace.

Regardless of which site you choose to use—and many people maintain an active presence on two or more—it is important to read the privacy statement of each site prior to creating profile with personal information. Facebook in particular has been criticized recently for treating personal data and privacy concerns rather haphazardly. For example, most of its features that expose personal profile information to advertisers are "opt-out," which by default enrolls the user without his or her specific approval or even knowledge.

As with all interactions with web sites, controlling what information is entered in your user profile is highly recommended.

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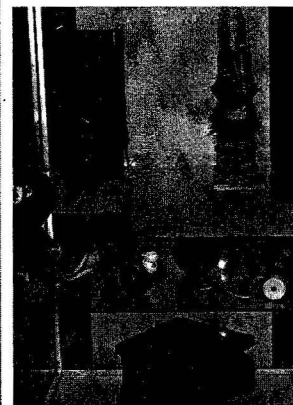
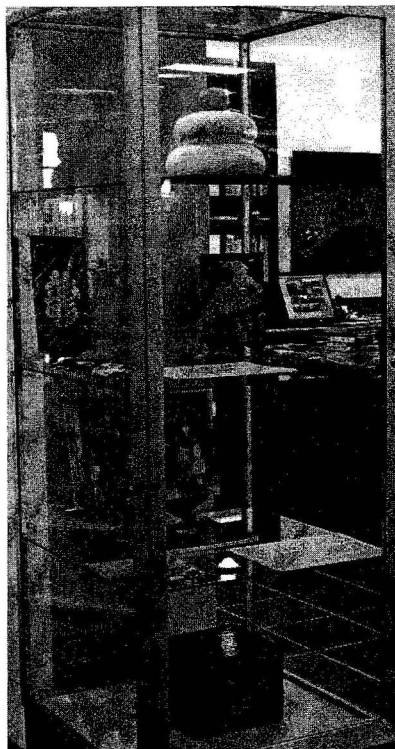
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LIBRARY'S NEW YEAR DISPLAY

During the month of January, JAHSSD celebrated New Year at the North University Community Library. Thanks to **Joyce Teague** and the **Obon Again Shop** at the Buddhist Temple San Diego, we were able to borrow items illustrating how the arrival of the New Year might be celebrated in Japanese households. **Linda Canada** created the display.



Some items associated with a traditional Japanese New Year celebration were displayed by JAHSSD at the North University Community Library during January. Photos courtesy of Linda Canada

Our small exhibition included lacquer stacking boxes (*hobako*) used to serve traditional cooked delicacies, and the toys like kites and tops given to children to play with at New Year. It also included a large ceramic replica of the traditional *okagami mochi*, a stack of two large mochi topped with a tangerine. Also displayed was a large wood mallet used for pounding mochi to accompany historical photographs of local mochitsuki activity both at Fish Camp and on the farm.

Cindy Shutler, librarian at this branch, approached JAHSSD about mounting the exhibition in three glass cases near the front entrance of the library. She had noticed that many of her patrons are Japanese nationals working at UCSD or the nearby biotech companies.

Copies of our *Footprints* and information on New Year's activities at the Buddhist Temple accompanied the exhibition.

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(A CLASSIC PHOTO FROM THE ARCHIVES continued from Page 1)

Fishing on the River

All three of the guys, Po, Babe and Yo, remember that there was a small shallow inlet on the main river side of the island where carp liked to gather. They and other guys tried catching the carp by sitting in the water and forming a barrier with legs spread wide, toe to toe, while some others chased the carp toward the barrier. When the carp hit their legs, the boys would grab them and throw them onto land.

Babe says that he got a sack of cement from somewhere and used it to make a pond outside his barracks apartment. He took some of the captured carp back to camp to stock his pond. Po recalls that they wrapped the carp in a wet gunny sack to carry them back to camp.

Some of Po's other recollections of his river adventures include fishing for carp using bread, wetted and kneaded into a ball, for bait. He thought they were easy to catch. He also recalls camping overnight at the river and sleeping on a cot, though he doesn't remember where the cot came from. One day he and some buddies stayed late at the river and when they started back to camp, it was pitch black, no moonlight at all. It was really spooky hiking back. Every little noise—birds chirping, wild horses running—would scare the heck out of them.

Another one of Po's remembrances is a guy from camp who built a shack by the river and lived there. The guy always had a fishing line in the water and had it tied to a can cover so it would make noise when a fish bit. As a prank, Po and some other guys would pull on the line so he would think he had a fish.

Other River Remembrances

Jim Yanagihara has a recollection of people catching snapping turtles in the river by poking a stick in the water. A turtle would clamp its mouth onto the stick and never let go. The people catching the turtles would slit their throats (the turtles', not their own!) to collect the blood. Jim thought the blood was used as some kind of medication. He also said that his uncle, **Kingo Ouchi** of Block 323, was appointed as game warden and also had a shack on the little island. He would live there for two or three days, go back to camp for a few days, then return to the river.

Mas Asakawa recalls the time he almost drowned in the river. **Nob Honda** wanted Mas to swim across the channel to the island with him. Mas told Nob he couldn't swim that far, so Nob told Mas he would carry him across on his back. So Nob started across with Mas clinging to his back. All of a sudden they hit a deep hole in the channel and down they went. Nob was able to pull Mas to safety.

Mich Himaka, about ten at the time, was another one of the boys who hiked to the river. He also remembers the powdery silt on the road to the river. It was about six inches deep and kicked up every time he took a step. He also recalls that the mess hall cooks in his block (Block 330) would pack a lunch of sandwiches for those going to the river. He particularly disliked the sandwiches made by one of the cooks who made fried egg sandwiches sunny side up with the yolk unbroken and runny. It was not very appetizing.

Adventurous Girls

Not as many girls as boys went to the river, but among the girls who did was **Amy Hashiguchi Kaneyuki**, now Po's wife. On one of her trips to the river, Amy and her friends, **Alice Higuchi** and **Mary Arata**, being adventurous girls, decided to take a hike toward Camp II. So they headed north along the riverbank.

The river's edge was not all flat and sandy like it was where their hike started. There were many places where the bank was steep. It was dusk by the time they reached a spot on the river near Camp II. They were afraid to make their way back along the river in the dark, so somehow or other they made their way to Camp II. It must have been

a long hike—probably three miles upriver and, if the distance from the river to Camp II was about the same as it was from the river to Camp III, another three miles to Camp II. When they reached Camp II, they found the police station and asked the policemen for a ride back to Camp III. The police were angry at them, but one of the cops did give them a ride to their home. Those girls had guts and stamina.

On another hike to the river, Amy and her friends decided to take a break from the heat by sitting in the shade under a tree, but suddenly they saw a snake there. So much for taking a break.



Poston III residents picnicking and fishing at the Colorado River, circa 1944. The man on the far left is **Fukumatsu Nakamura**. The others are unidentified. Three men (third and fourth from left; third from the right) in the safari type hats with a star-shaped insignia are thought to be members of the Poston III police force. The fish hanging from the pole of the man in the foreground is a carp. This photo was donated to JAHSSD by **Pauline and Isamu Nakamura**.

The Camp III swimming pool, the best among the three Poston camps, was completed in the summer of 1944. Po remembers being drafted as a volunteer to work on the pool to get it ready for its opening. With the opening of the pool, there was not much reason to make the long hike to the river, so most of the excursions to the river ended.

Mich recalls that **Mr. Shigeo Fujimoto**, the manager of Mich's block, Block 330, wanted to make sure that the young kids in his block knew how to swim for their own safety. He would collect the kids every day, march them to the pool and give them swimming lessons.

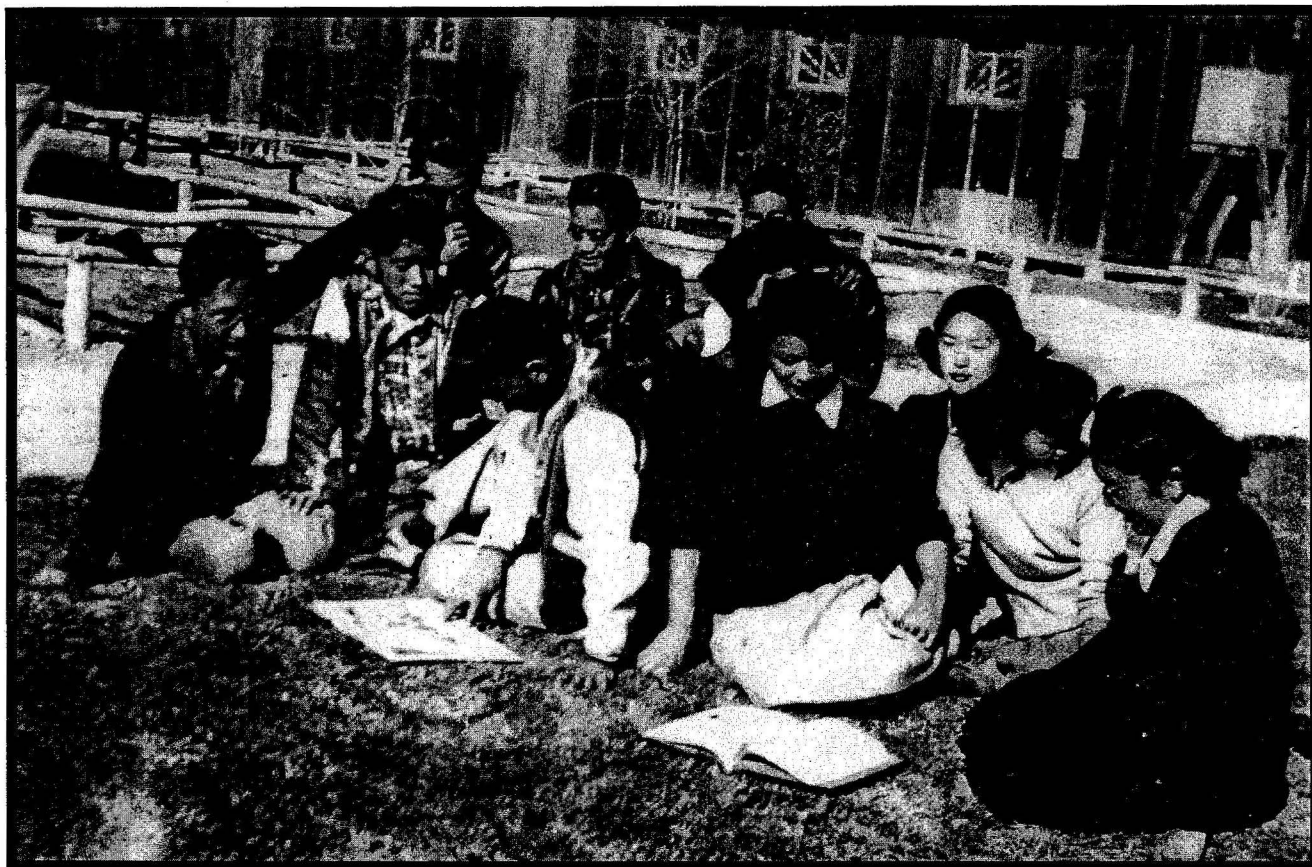
Mich remembers that he and his buddies, including Jim Yanagihara, taking trips to the river even after the pool was built. On their first trip to the river after Mr. Fujimoto had taught them to swim, they wondered if they could make it to the little island. They bravely tried it and made it.

I had also hiked down to the river many times and writing this article brought back memories of the fun times I had at the river—although I was such a lousy swimmer I could barely make it to the island. In talking to those who shared their memories about those river excursions, I learned about things that went on at the river that I never knew before. I hope you enjoyed reading about them as much as I enjoyed writing the article.

WANT TO SHARE A BIT OF HISTORY OR SOMETHING ELSE YOU LEARNED TODAY?

If you found something worth sharing on these pages, please consider giving a JAHSSD gift membership to your children, relatives, or friends. They will receive their very own four informative issues of *Footprints*...and the Society will benefit as well!

FROM THE JAHSSD ARCHIVES...



IN COMMEMORATION OF THE POSTON REUNION, WE PRESENT THE CLASS OF '44.

This photo was part of the 1991 Poston Reunion exhibit.

First row: **Jim Tajiri, Hisashi Matoi, Saburo Uyeji, Terry Hamaguchi, Aiko Kubo, Kaz Nakamichi**

Second row: **Tom Tajiri, Ben Inouye, Unidentified female, Grace Kushino**

Third row: **Unidentified male**

Are they examining high school yearbooks? Are they checking out the latest magazines from outside camp? Are they reading senior wills and getting a good laugh? Who took the photo? Tell us about the Class of '44 or share your high school memories at the Poston Reunion Exhibit. We will be collecting oral history tidbits at the reunion for JAHSSD's fast-growing collection of internment history.

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MOHAVELAND: In 1945, the Poston III Young Buddhist Association published this 70-page book as a remembrance of life in the Colorado River War Relocation Center. Primarily a photographic record of Buddhist families and individuals who resided at Poston III during WWII, it contains hundreds of photographs depicting camp life and its residents. Of great interest to former residents of Poston Camp III, their children and grandchildren, and to anyone interested in internment history.
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DEAR MISS BREED (Joanne Oppenheim ©2006 Scholastic Press): The award-winning story of San Diego's brave Children's Librarian, Clara Breed, who carried on a three-year correspondence with children who wrote her from behind barbed wire during World War II. Their letters offer remarkable insight into camp life and the hopes, dreams, and tenacity of young Americans branded "enemy aliens" by their country.
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SOUTH BAY MONOGATARI: Tales of the South Bay Nikkei Community (Donald H. Estes ©1996, Chula Vista Historical Society): Stories of struggle and success among San Diego's Japanese immigrant families. By the acknowledged expert on the San Diego Nikkei. 195 pages, photographs, annotations and index.
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Editors: Joyce Teague, Michio Himaka
Editorial Assistance: Bill Teague
Desktop Publisher: Paper Pushers Editorial Services
(paperpushers@cox.net)

JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO

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MASAMI HONDA, 1917~2005

POSTON CAMP III became the desert home of Masami Honda's family during WWII. The oldest of six children, Mas was a natural leader, serving as block representative and on the Poston Camp Council. He loved working with kids and organized the Buddhist youth group. After the war, he served as the San Diego Buddhist Church's legal representative, using skills he'd learned working with camp administrators. Mas earned a living gardening, married Ruth Kodama, and they raised three children together. After retirement, he enjoyed a fulfilling life as a volunteer, especially at Kiku Gardens where he lived.

JAHSSD is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the collection, identification, preservation and display of materials related to the Japanese American experience in the San Diego region. We view our function in the greater community as historical, educational and cultural. **Footprints** is JAHSSD's quarterly publication for its membership. Subscription is free with membership. We welcome your articles, stories, letters and comments. Send them to: FOOTPRINTS EDITOR, P.O. Box 620988, San Diego, CA 92162-0988, or send e-mail to: footprintseditor@cox.net.

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